

Democracy in Religion

Founding of the People's Church in Schenectady, New York

A SIGNIFICANT experiment in democratic religion is in progress in Schenectady, N. Y. It is called the People's Church, and its inspiring factor is Rev. Dr. George R. Lunn, who resigned from the astoriate of the most aristocratic congregation in that city to champion the interests of common humanity.

Schenectady is a peculiar city. Originally controlled by conservative natives, it is today in the grip of absentee capitalism. In ten years its population has leaped from 30,000 to 80,000, and the bulk of this "outlander increment" depends for its daily bread upon two immense industries, the General Electric company, employing, at a maximum, 17,000 workers, and the American Locomotive company, employing between 8,000 and 9,000.

Dr. Lunn, full of faith in the efficacy of the Christian religion to solve those problems, came to the pulpit of Schenectady's most substantial congregation, solved to battle for a better social order.

He began by insisting that what mattered most was not what doctrines a man professed to believe in, but how he behaved himself as a man and a citizen.

There arose a crusade to exile certain notorious women outcasts. He did of join, but affirmed that women who were driven into social uncleanness by the want of wages of un-Christianized industry might not be half so guilty in the sight of God as women whose unearned wealth had been in part recruited by high rentals derived from dealers in vice.

The street railway system in Schenectady had been owned and managed by the General Electric company. It had given good car service, had sold six tickets (called "red tickets") for a quarter, and had been liberal with transfers. When the New York Central and Delaware and Hudson steam lines conceived the plan of securing control of trolley traffic in the Mohawk valley, "refined compulsion" was put upon the General Electric people to sell the Schenectady trolley system.

On May 14, 1907, the new management said: "The desire of the company is to extend its service and to continue the use of the so-called 'red tickets,' but justice to the company makes it unwise that it should guarantee in perpetuity this low rate of fare."

CAR FARES RAISED.

On March 1, 1908, the fare was raised the flat five-cent rate. Although the general manager of the company was a member of the finance committee of his church, Dr. Lunn headed a citizens' committee, which first conferred with the president of the company in fruitless endeavor to secure a revision of the rate; and later carried a whole traction situation before the late public service commission.

But it was in his contest with the officials that this fighting person stirred up the biggest hornets' nest. William W. Wemple of Schenectady, as in the state senate when Gov. Hughes began his effort to de-legislate smoking. Mr. Wemple voted with the racing interests. For this he was loudly censured by the Schenectady ministerial association. But Dr. Lunn thought it would be a good thing to have the governor come over to Schenectady and make a speech. The president of the ministerial association was absent from the city, hence Dr. Lunn went ahead on his own responsibility, hired a theater, secured the governor's promise to appear; by three hours' telephoning organized a reception committee, and had the meeting all arranged before the Republican leaders knew about it. When they woke up they were especially solicitous that Senator Wemple should be on the platform; but Dr. Lunn would not have it that way.

The governor came, addressed a crowded and responsive audience, and, in the following election, Senator Wemple was elected to stay at home.

CHURCH AND PEOPLE.

Dr. Lunn's purpose in attacking political graft, lawbreaking and injustices was not primarily economic but spiritual; to make religion vital among people alienated from the conventional church. As he said, "The church has failed to recognize in the great cry for better conditions and a fuller and more complete life generally, coming from the laboring classes, a real word of God for this age, a veritable voice of the eternal calling all men of good will into active service."

What followed was what could have been expected. In spite of the traditional support of a few broad-minded men the run of parishioners having interests to defend took umbrage at this vitalizing of gospel precepts; friction arose, tongues wagged and finally, though the congregation by vote of 259 to 101 urged him to stay, Dr. Lunn resigned and the consistory, with half its membership of eight about to retire voted seven to one to accept the resignation.

So Dr. Lunn left the aristocratic pulpit in Schenectady and went to a theater to preach to a meeting place in which has been born a strictly democratic church. This was twice each Sunday. The evening I attended, 1,500 substantial looking, interested men and women crowded pit and balcony, sang with gusto songs of democracy to familiar hymn tunes, bowed reverently in prayer, repeating in unison the Lord's prayer, and listened intently to a practical and pointed talk on everyday religion. The People's church has no creed and its government is exceedingly simple. There is only the congregation, the pastor and an advisory council, the latter consisting of one of the principal surgeons of the city, two business men, an electrical engineer, three wage-earning workmen, one leader in the labor movement, and two places left open for women. The initiative and referendum are applied in that 20 persons may unite to bring any subject to the pastor's or congregation's attention. Once a month there is an open forum discussion. Expenses are met by plate offerings and pledge cards.

When Dr. Lunn left the First Reformed pastorate 1,500 working people in writing wanted him immediately to organize a People's church, but he insisted upon first testing the attendance and spirit. That test he thinks is now complete—certainly the People's church appears to be on a sound financial as well as upon a vital human basis. Five months have yielded steady increase of interest with enlarging usefulness and growing support. If this pace shall be maintained, the life and outlook of Schenectady must in time be profoundly influenced.

Richard G. Lambert Celebrates Sixtieth Birthday Anniversary



RICHARD G. LAMBERT AND THE OLD HOMESTEAD

Richard G. Lambert, whose picture is shown herewith, is 60 years old today, and together with members of his family Mr. Lambert is holding a celebration in honor of the occasion, at the family residence.

Richard G. Lambert was born in this city July 2, 1850, in the old house shown in the picture. Since that time the old place has been remodeled and new additions put on, but at the time of Richard's birth it was a one-story dobe building with a dirt roof. The dokes in the old house were made by the late Pres. George Q. Cannon in 1848, and were built into the house by the late Charles Lambert in 1849.

The house was the home where the children of Charles and Mary Alice Cannon Lambert were born and reared, Richard G. being one of the children. It is one of the oldest residences now standing in this city.

In observing his sixtieth birthday anniversary, Mr. Lambert looks back upon a busy and useful life. Reared in pioneer life he early learned the reliance, taking his full share of the labor falling to the lot of the boys and young men of the time. In 1868 he first became associated with The Deseret News, and it was only after years of faithful service that he severed that connection in the year 1907. He has been active alike in ecclesiastical and temporal capacities. He was a member of the constitutional convention of Utah, and the constitution was compiled and published under his supervision. He filled a mission in the Sandwich Islands from 1873 to 1877.

Richard G. Lambert is still hale and hearty and is quite an athlete. He has just returned from a trip through Nevada and southern Utah, where he drove a small pair of mules and a light rig 1,500 miles in less than two months. Mr. Lambert has traveled about the state a great deal, and is among the well known men of Utah.

CULLED FROM THE STATE PRESS

OTIC PARLUM.

A gentleman once said to the writer, "I never read poetry; it is too much like eating baled hay, or playing poker with Confederate money." The devoted man of course never knew what good intellectual meat was. He would feed his mind on prose pork and beans, and cabbage, potatoes and pickles, and hot biscuits and corn bread. Never could he touch the dessert of poetical life, the metrical marmalade, the epicruit cake, or the rhythmic strawberry and cream. What a lot of good things he man has missed.—Gunnison Gazette.

TIMES' ON WATER WAGON.

We are glad to learn from The Globe that the Tremont boys do not get quor in Garland; but they certainly do not get it from The Times' main office, as The Globe insinuates, for no good reason that The Times man does not own a booze bottle. But somewhere there must be a place where they do get it.—Tremont Times.

THIS IS PERFECTLY SYNONYMOUS

The Globe is an independent weekly paper and does not mix up in politics, religion or factional fights. Articles in this paper over synonymous signatures written by citizens, or signed by individuals, telephone troubles, etc. are not sentiments or personal affairs of the editor. When the editorial columns of this paper speak you can rest assured that the sentiments expressed are the editor's views, otherwise we have no connection with the troubles of others expressed through these columns. The subscribers, at all times, to give for items of a public nature, but such items are not The Globe's views or sentiments. Remember this.—Garland Globe.

BUSY DEPUTY.

Ed Johnstone deputy sheriff at Kenilworth has resigned and will go to Elly, Nev., for three months after that time he will return to Carbon county and

make Price his home. He will build as soon as he returns.—Carbon County News.

TRYING SOMETHING EASY.

Earl Wilcox is in from his ranch on the reservation. Earl is now breaking mules instead of riding freight cars on the Rio Grande.—Carbon County News.

PROBABLY THEY DID.

R. W. Snyder and Elva Hill, George Dimick and Mary Hill went to Salt Lake last Tuesday. They thought probably they would get their marriage license there.—Carbon County News.

JIM AND THE "KIDDIES."

Born—June 18 to Mr. and Mrs. James Kiddy twins. Jim has been ill for some time with a severe case of pneumonia but since the happy event is rapidly recovering.—Rich County News.

THE "HELLO" GIRL.

Miss Lucy Hudson of Salt Lake returned home Thursday after a pleasant visit with her sister, Miss Roxey Hudson, the popular "Hello" girl at central.—Garland Globe.

BAD PLACE TO GET PUNCTURED.

The south-bound motor car via the Malad branch got "punctured" between here and Malad Wednesday and the freight engine had to go after the steamboat and tow it to Brigham.—Garland Globe.

YOUTHFUL GRANDMOTHER.

Mr. and Mrs. William Burton and daughter Pearl of Ogden, spent most of this week in Garland the guests of their grandchildren, Mrs. Burdett Smith and the Foulger boys.—Garland Globe.

BOOST FOR SHIRLEY.

A good word for Shirley Nebeker, a student of the Veterinary college of Kansas City, Jasper Keart's fine stallion was dangerously near death but by Shirley's persistence and skill a \$2,500 animal was brought to restoration to a normal health and condition.—Rich County News.

HOW ABOUT THIS, DAVID?

Miss Carra Cail has returned to her home in Ogden. David Neville went with her. Don't know what that means unless it's another wedding soon.—Rich County News.

A WORD TO THE WISE.

Leave your orders for fresh chicken with the News office or Eldridge's. Order at once as they will not keep in this hot weather.—Rich County News.

OIL MAGNATES NUMEROUS.

Word comes from Mrs. Jane Allen of Bluff that 17 oil magnates are at her place, that Bluff is booming and land is exchanging hands.—Grand Valley Times.

ALSO PUTTING UP THE PRICE.

Grayson, June 22.—The farmers are busy putting up their hay. The price of hay has been raised to \$22 per ton, by the Bluff oil boom.—Grand Valley Times.

IS A PROUD MOTHER.

Mrs. Evelyn Bayles has returned from Bluff, where she had been visiting her sister and exhibiting her young twin boys.—Grand Valley Times.

THAT PANGUTCH CLIMATE.

For four nights in succession last week the thermometer stood as low as 40 degrees above zero, so Sister Ann Burgess says. This makes our Pangutch delightful compared with the hot lands of many places.—Pangutch News.

CODDINGTON CONSIDERATE.

Tom Coddington is spending considerable money improving his place with a new hay barn, stables and other out buildings. Mr. Coddington believes in making his stock comfortable as well as himself.—American Fork Citizen.

"SI" NOT ON THE JOB.

"Si Punkins" seems to have nothing to tell his Maria about Gunnison doing this week. Guess he's too busy working, to catch on to the gossip, or perhaps he's up watching the electric light people fix the power dam. If so, Maria will likely hear something about it next week.—Gunnison Gazette.

MUST BE ABOVE SUSPICION.

Kidney and bladder ailments are so serious in their consequences, and if unchecked so often fatal that any remedy offered for their cure must be above suspicion. Foley Kidney Pills contain no harmful drugs, and have successfully stood a long and thorough test.—Schramm-Johnson Drugs.

Bathing at Saltair makes the sick well and makes the well feel better.

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COAST "RED WITH LOBSTERS."

Irishman Not Overcome by Dish Set Before Him in This Country.

The congressman with a red necktie was entertaining a friend who had formerly arrived from the "Old Sod," but had attained fame as the man who had carried "the fourteenth precinct in the twenty-second ward." With such a visitor to entertain, the congressman thought the best thing was to take him to Harvey's lobster palace. The gathering there somewhat impressed Pat, but when the waiter placed before him a great, rich, red lobster, set down with an airy and nonchalant wave of his hand. Pat's eyes opened a trifle wider than usual with astonishment, says the National magazine. "You did not get anything like that in your native town," remarked the entertainer. "Those red lobsters are considered a delicacy, but I understand were in high favor ever since the time when Nero insisted on having them for every meal—have you ever seen one before?"

"Ah, go on wild ye," was the reply. "Seen one? Isn't the coast of Ireland red with those fish—although a few of them have escaped lately and come across and got into Congress in Washington?"

FISHING EXCURSION.

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What Are You Interested In?

Cosmopolitan Magazine offers you the most interesting, up-to-date fact stories and fiction stories of all magazines.

Woman's Suffrage:

Every woman in the country is interested in knowing the progress of the Woman's Suffrage movement. The daily newspapers keep them generally informed as to what is going on in this country. But they don't know what the women of Europe are doing. To answer this question, Cosmopolitan Magazine sent Winifred Black to Great Britain to study the situation at first hand. Mrs. Black has told the story in a wonderful presentation of the facts, describing the personalities of the leaders and the movement abroad.

Political Graft:

Under the general title of "What are you going to do about it?" Charles Edward Russell, the famous investigator, sociologist and writer, tells the story of political graft throughout the United States—how legislative rottenness is reaching into the pocketbooks of the average citizen. In a series of articles in the Cosmopolitan he makes a big sweeping expose, told in a dramatic style, of public corruption as he has found it in various places in this country.

Religious Thought:

Harold Bolce, whose work along this line of investigation is the most notable of any investigator of his time, exposes the radical revolutionary religion that is being taught in the women's colleges of this country; shows how these young women are being graduated into the word equipped with a religious training that is startling, if not actually sensational. These articles are now running in the Cosmopolitan Magazine.

Great Men:

Every one is interested in what some BIG man does, or has done. The Cosmopolitan Magazine is fortunate in having been able to secure Porfirio Diaz, "Dictator-President of Mexico," to write his autobiography. Besides that, Cosmopolitan has secured the autobiography of General Miles, whom military experts abroad regard as a very great soldier. Both President Diaz and General Miles have been makers of history in the biggest sense. Their autobiographies will appear in the Cosmopolitan.

Perfect Health:

The new thought health movement in this country is growing bigger every day, and Cosmopolitan is running a series of articles on that subject, each of which is written by a noted experimenter in the science of keeping well. Upton Sinclair has already written one, and many other equally eminent writers are to follow. Besides this, Dr. Woods Hutchinson is writing articles on the care of babies, which are of extremely practical nature for every American home.

Fiction Stories:

You like a good story—every one does, whether it be a love story, an adventure story, a laugh story, or a tear story. Among the fiction writers that the Cosmopolitan has been enabled to get to write stories for you are: O. Henry, Bruno Lessing, Jacques Futrelle, Jack London, Porter Emerson Brown, Alfred Henry Lewis, George Randolph Chester, Sir Gilbert Parker, Agnes and Edgerton Castle and a score of others, all of whom contribute one or more of their best short stories. Then there is Robert W. Chambers's new serial, which will begin in the Cosmopolitan very soon. Watch for it.

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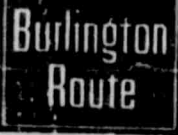
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